GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2804
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015
Eco-friendly Highways
Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the monitoring mechanism/monitoring bodies set up to assess the impact of construction of highways on environment in ecologically sensitive pockets;

(b) whether any institution has been engaged to develop eco-friendly highways construction methods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the suggestions received from them in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) There is no monitoring mechanism set up by the Ministry to assess the impact of construction of National Highways on environment. However, the guidelines of the Ministry of Environment & Forest and Indian Roads Congress (IRC) i.e. IRC:104-"Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment of Highway projects" assist in (i) providing useful information about the possible environmental impacts of the project, (ii) assessing and evaluating alternatives for the choice of environmentally acceptable and economically feasible alternative and (iii) identifying mitigating measures for incorporation in the detailed project report of the National Highways projects. The Consultants advise the implementing agencies in adoption and monitoring of the most environmentally acceptable plan for the project.

(b) & (c) The Indian Roads Congress has also formulated specifications in IRC:SP:98 for the usage of waste plastic in road construction. The laboratory studies conducted by some research institutes regarding utilization of waste plastic in bituminous mixes have proved that these enhance the properties of mix. However, the efficacy of use of waste plastic in construction of National Highways has not been tested and proved by field trials.

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